

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

March 13th, 2015

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



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News story #1 Retiring Police Chief

Do you know what the job of a police chief is? Have you heard that Calgary's police chief of 40 years is going to retire this week? This first story is about Rick Hanson, the police chief, and how he will be retiring.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words in the story with the synonyms. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
	retire	a) appreciative; pleased
	sustained	b) what's left behind; inheritance
	grateful	c) gather; get together
	assemble	d) leave; go; stop working
	legacy	e) suggestion; choice; selection
	replace	f) take the place of; change
	nomination	g) constant; continued

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

standing ovation – when people stand up and clap for someone who has done something great
acting Chief – someone who will step in and act as the boss until a new chief is found for the job

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. During the meeting today, members in the meeting stood up and clapped for Hanson's 40 years of service.
2. The standing ovation was quick.
3. Rick Hanson had already finished his last day at work when he got the standing ovation.
4. Hanson worked with the police department for 40 years.
5. Hanson's biggest legacy is a strong team of police officers.
6. Hanson doesn't have to go to work on Friday.
7. The city has already found a police chief to replace Hanson.

Discussion: Have you ever given someone a standing ovation? Why do people get standing ovations? How else can we show appreciation for people who have done a good job?

News story #2 Pedestrian Bridge, Coming Soon

How much do you think it costs to build a bridge? How specific or precise do builders need to be with measurements when building something like a bridge? This second story is about a mistake that was made when building a footbridge in Calgary and when it is expected to be ready for use.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with the correct definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	overpass	a) to put in
	crew	b) a mistake; something that has happened by accident
	install	c) something meant to hold something else up, or in position
	support (n)	d) a tall, upright, round post meant to support a roof or bridge
	pillar	e) to be responsible for
	on the hook	f) a group of workers
	glitch	g) another word for bridge – something that passes over a deep valley, a road, or a body of water

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

pedestrian bridge - a bridge that goes over a valley, road or body of water used by people who are not in cars, so they are either on foot, or bicycle

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The city says _____.	a) the public will be able to use the bridge this March. b) people will be able to use the Shaganappi pedestrian bridge soon.
2. The overpass cost _____.	a) 5.9 million dollars. b) 9.5 million dollars.
3. Crews first tried to install the bridge _____.	a) this past January b) in May
4. The supports that were built _____.	a) were installed in January. b) didn't fit because they didn't line up with the pillars.
5. The reason the overpass didn't fit was because _____.	a) the crew tried to install it too early. b) the supports and pillars were off by 11 centimeters.
6. Tax payers will _____.	a) not have to pay for this glitch. b) be on the hook for this glitch.

Discussion Question: What was the glitch that happened in the story? In this situation, tax payers will not pay for the glitch, so whom do you think will pay? What kinds of mistakes do tax payers have to pay for?

News story #3 Youth and Tanning Bed Risks

Have you ever used a tanning bed? Why do people use tanning beds? What are the risks with using them? This next story is about teenagers using tanning beds and the health risks involved.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
legislation	A law or set of laws
tanning bed	A bed filled with UV lights that you lay in to get a 'sun' tan
spotlight	A bright light used so something can be easily seen
restrict	To stop something from happening
strict guidelines	Tight, specific rules for something
significant risk	A very good chance that something bad or dangerous could happen
consider	To think about something
partake	To take part in something; to do

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Canadian Cancer Society – a group of medical professionals and researchers, which looks after researching and helping people who have cancer

1. Would you like to _____ in the activities at the birthday party?
2. If you lie in a _____, you will get a tan, but you'll also increase your risk of getting cancer.
3. Teenagers are _____ from drinking alcohol until the age of 18 in Alberta.
4. There are _____ of getting cancer that come from laying in the sun and smoking cigarettes.
5. Government officials pass _____ on many different things in order to keep society running well.
6. You should _____ someone's feelings before you say something that is unkind.
7. Airlines have _____ that passengers have to follow, in order to keep everyone safe.
8. Someone needs to shine the _____ on this problem, so we can take a closer look at it.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Note-taking

Listen and take notes on the following details in the story. *Answers are in the appendix*

Who is involved?	
What happens?	
Where?	
Why?	

Activity: Look at your notes and retell the story you just heard with your partner.

Language Focus: Simple Past Tense vs. Present Perfect

Simple Past: We use the simple past to talk about a completed action that has started and finished in the past.

Form: Regular verbs end with –ed
e.g. walked; listened; learned

irregular verbs have different endings
e.g. ran, hit, was and were, felt

Present Perfect: We use present perfect to: 1. Talk about things that have started and finished in the past, but are still important today. 2. Talk about things that have started in the past but still are not completed actions. 3. Talk about something that has been recently completed.

Form: have or has + past participle of the verb
e.g. have been; has heard; have learned; has seen

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of verb (either simple past or present perfect)

Answers are in the appendix.

My mother and I (go) _____ to the market every Saturday when I (am) _____ a child, and I (love) _____ it! I (not/be) _____ back to my favourite market since I (am) _____ 11 years old, because I (move) _____ at that age. I always (buy) _____ toys there with the money I (get) _____ for doing odd jobs around my neighbourhood. Even though I am older now and I don't live near any markets anymore, my love for them (never/change) _____.

2. Look at sentences from this week's stories and underline the simple past or present perfect verbs and explain why that verb form was used there. (The last sentence was created to provide you with more practice.)

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Calgary police chief, Rick Hanson, is retiring and he received a sustained standing ovation at today's city council meeting.
2. Hanson has completed 40 years in policing.
3. Hanson said he's grateful to have the support and leadership of city council.
4. The 5.9-million dollar overpass didn't fit when crews first tried to install it in January.
5. That's because the supports didn't line up with the pillars.
6. Tanning beds have been a problem for years now.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH 13 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of March 13 th .	0:00
Story 1	Calgary police chief, Rick Hanson, is retiring and he received a sustained standing ovation at today's city council meeting. Hanson has completed 40 years in policing. Mayor Naheed Nenshi says the strong team of deputy chiefs, superintendents and inspectors assembled by Hanson is his true legacy to the police service. Hanson said he's grateful to have the support and leadership of city council. His last day on the job as police chief is this Friday. An acting chief has not yet been named to replace him. Sources have told CBC News that Hanson will seek the PC party nomination in the provincial riding of Calgary Cross later this month.	0:07
Story 2	The city says the public will soon be able to use the Shaganappi pedestrian bridge. The 5.9-million dollar overpass didn't fit when crews first tried to install it in January. That's because the supports didn't line up with the pillars. The city's director of transportation and infrastructure, Michael Thompson says they were off by about 11 centimetres on either side. Thompson says it's still not clear how that happened. The bridge is scheduled to be open sometime in May. City officials say taxpayers will not be on the hook for fixing this glitch.	0:56
Story 3	The Canadian Cancer Society hopes legislation will put the use of tanning beds back in the spotlight, especially their use by those under the age of 18. Alberta and Saskatchewan are the only two provinces that don't have regulations restricting tanning bed use. Sarah Hawkins is a research analyst with the Canadian Cancer Society. She says although the government should provide strict guidelines, parents should educate their children about the risks associated with tanning beds. She says, "It's one of those things that parents don't necessarily think of when it they talk to their children, but it is a significant risk to their health and one that most kids aren't really considering as a risk among the things they partake in on a regular basis." The new legislation is expected to be introduced in the spring session.	1:38

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
d	retire	a) appreciative; pleased
g	sustained	b) what's left behind; inheritance
a	grateful	c) gather; get together
c	assemble	d) leave; go; stop working
b	legacy	e) suggestion; choice; selection
f	replace	f) take the place of; change
e	nomination	g) constant; continued

Listening:

1. T During the meeting today, members in the meeting stood up and clapped for Hanson's 40 years of service.
2. F The standing ovation was quick.
3. F Rick Hanson had already finished his last day at work when he got the standing ovation.
4. T Hanson worked with the police department for 40 years.
5. T Hanson's biggest legacy is a strong team of police officers.
6. F Hanson doesn't have to go to work on Friday.
7. F The city has already found a police chief to replace Hanson.

News story 2

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
g	overpass	a) to put in
f	crew	b) a mistake; something that has happened by accident
a	install	c) something meant to hold something else up, or in position
c	support (n)	d) a tall, upright, round post meant to support a roof or bridge
d	pillar	e) to be responsible for
e	on the hook	f) a group of workers
b	glitch	g) another word for bridge – something that passes over a deep valley, a road, or a body of water

Listening:

1. The city says _____.	a) the public will be able to use the bridge this March. b) people will be able to use the Shaganappi pedestrian bridge soon.
2. The overpass cost _____.	a) 5.9 million dollars. b) 9.5 million dollars.
3. Crews first tried to install the bridge _____.	a) this past January b) in May
4. The supports that were built _____.	a) were installed in January. b) didn't fit because they didn't line up with the pillars.
5. The reason the overpass didn't fit was because _____.	a) the crew tried to install it too early. b) the supports and pillars were off by 11 centimeters.
6. Tax payers will _____.	a) not have to pay for this glitch. b) be on the hook for this glitch.

News story 3**Vocabulary:**

1. Would you like to **partake** in the activities at the birthday party?
2. If you lie in a **tanning bed**, you will get a tan, but you'll also increase your risk of getting cancer.
3. Teenagers are **restricted** from drinking alcohol until the age of 18 in Alberta.
4. There are **significant risks** of getting cancer that come from laying in the sun and smoking cigarettes.
5. Government officials pass **legislation** on many different things in order to keep society running well.
6. You should **consider** someone's feelings before you say something that is unkind.
7. Airlines have **strict guidelines** that passengers have to follow, in order to keep everyone safe.
8. Someone needs to shine the **spotlight** on this problem, so we can take a closer look at it.

Listening:

Who is involved?	The Canadian Cancer Society; Sarah Hawkins the research analyst; the government; parents; teenagers and children
What happens?	The Canadian Cancer Society wants the government to stop people who are under 18 from using tanning beds because of the danger and risks they pose to people. They also think that parents need to play a larger role in controlling what their kids are doing.
Where?	Alberta and Saskatchewan; tanning beds
Why?	Tanning beds pose a significant risk to teenagers and are generally bad for one's health, so the Canadian Cancer Society wants teenager's access to the tanning beds to change as soon as possible.

Language focus:

Fill in the blanks

My mother and I **went** to the market every Saturday when I **was** a child, and I **loved** it! I **haven't been** back to my favourite market since I **was** 11 years old, because I **moved** at that age. I always **bought** toys there with the money I **got** for doing odd jobs around my neighbourhood. Even though I am older now and I don't live near any markets anymore, my love for them **has never changed**.

1. Calgary police chief, Rick Hanson, is retiring and he **received** a sustained standing ovation at today's city council meeting. (the act of receiving the standing ovation started and finished earlier today, so simple past is used.)
2. Hanson **has completed** 40 years in policing. (the completion of his 40 years in policing has just happened, so present perfect is used)
3. Hanson **said** he's grateful to have the support and leadership of city council. (the act of him saying he's grateful happened once earlier today at the council meeting, so simple past is used)
4. The 5.9-million dollar overpass **didn't fit** when crews first **tried** to install it in January. (the crew already tried to fit the bridge in place and it didn't work. They won't be trying it again and they have moved on to a new solution, and the event is totally done, so simple past is used.)
5. That's because the supports **didn't line up** with the pillars. (the crew already tried to line up the pillars and it didn't work. They won't be trying it again and they have moved on to a new solution, and the event is totally done, so simple past is used.)
6. Tanning beds **have been** a problem for years now. (Tanning beds started to be a problem in the past, but they are still a problem today, so present perfect is used).